



# Oregon

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## Department of Land Conservation and Development

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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Laren Woolley, Coastal Shores Specialist

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6, March 13-14, 2014, LCDC Meeting**

### **PREPARING FOR A CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE TSUNAMI: A LAND USE GUIDE FOR OREGON COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

#### **I. SUMMARY**

Oregon coastal communities are at significant risk of a powerful and destructive locally generated tsunami. While outreach, education, and emergency preparation have increased, there has been little done to implement land use strategies within coastal communities to increase resilience to this potentially catastrophic event. Land use planning can be a powerful tool in this effort. The department has developed land use guidance to assist local governments not only to prepare for this devastating event but also to reduce the time needed to recover.

For additional information about this report, please contact Laren Woolley at 541-574-0811 or by email at [laren.wolley@state.or.us](mailto:laren.wolley@state.or.us).

#### **II. BACKGROUND**

In response to DLCD's inherent responsibility to help local communities address natural hazards, and federal coastal management priorities, it has been a primary focus for some time to help coastal communities address coastal hazards through land use planning. This land use guide is consistent with that emphasis. In addition, new Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Tsunami Inundation Maps (TIMs) completed in June of 2013, and recent catastrophic tsunami events in other parts of the world, provide a much clearer picture of the significant risk faced by Oregon coastal communities. Further, the department participated significantly in the recently completed Oregon Resilience Plan which identifies land use planning strategies as key resilience plan components in addressing the impacts of a Cascadia event earthquake and tsunami. Coastal communities need assistance in how to apply this information locally. The department is desirous and committed to help in this effort.

### **III. THE GUIDE**

The purpose of the guide is to assist vulnerable communities as they incorporate tsunami resilience measures into their local land use programs. The completed tsunami land use guide has been designed to provide content that can be tailored by communities to address their individual situation. It includes sample comprehensive plan text, sample development code text, and additional resilience guidance, including tsunami evacuation planning guidance, financing and incentive concepts, and pre-disaster community land use planning. The guide focuses on integrating the development and improvement of evacuation infrastructure into the land use and development review process, identifying appropriate limitations on certain categories of uses, and providing incentives for development designs which reduce risk and increase resiliency. You may read the guide at <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/Pages/TsunamiGuideIntro.aspx> and a hard copy will be provided to you at the meeting.

### **IV. NEXT STEPS**

The guide has been circulated broadly. Department staff has provided outreach and education on the materials and this effort will increase. We anticipate that tsunami resilience work with our local government partners will be ongoing for many years. A key tool within the guide is a detailed and comprehensive evacuation route plan. An early phase of department assistance will include development of a model evacuation route plan to further assist communities. DLCD staff is prepared to assist any coastal community who desires to use these materials.